

CEMVP-CO-C&amp;H

02 December 2003

## MEMORANDUM FOR Record

SUBJECT: Minutes of River Resources Forum Meeting #67, 26 – 27 August 2003.

1. Introductions / Approve Minutes – A meeting of the River Resources Forum (RRF) was held on 26 – 27 August 2003 at the Prairie du Chein, Wi City Hall. Attached is the attendance list and handouts from the meeting.

*The Minutes from RRF #66 were approved by consensus as prepared.*

2. Agency Activities

WDOT – Thanks to Ellen Fisher for her time spent with the RRF. Presented plaque. Introduced Ron Adams as WDOT representative on the RRF.

3. Channel Maintenance Program – Tapp & Machajewski (COE) (67-1).

A) Reviewed Dredging Schedule.

- Dredge THOMSON began season on 3 June. Completed ~10 jobs (started, did not complete Chip. Delta), mobilized to MVR on 22 Aug.

- Dredge Dubuque to begin work in upper pool on 15 Sep.

- Both contract mechanical plants working in MVP. Plant 1 to MVR on 7 Aug.

- Due to the low water conditions we are experiencing this summer, we have begun formal Section 7 consultation with the FWS regarding potential dredging of the East Channel at Prairie du Chein, Wi. Preliminary results are that the dive crew is finding few live mussels. Dredging is tentatively scheduled to begin on 15 Sep. Prairie Sand & Gravel will perform barge unloading with placement at their Swingle site.

B) Reviewed Channel Management & Placement Site Activities Schedule.

- Mooring buoy fabrication completed; deployed on 21 Aug.

- Grand Encampment stabilization work (vanes) completed on 22 Jun.

- EA Pending at Lansing Hwy Bridge

- permanent pipeline in to site and drop structure relocation.

- Half Moon Landing work completed on 27 Jun.

- Rose Bud Island work completed on 31 July. Water levels held to upper end of band in order to access the job site. Per WDNR, this was not the best time of year to hold the water high. Need to coordinate operations like this more in the future.

- Ambrough Slough work completed on 25 July.

C) *Pool 2 Channel Management Study endorsed by consensus.*

4. Navigation Work Group – Peterson (USCG).

John Goeble will be the USCG representative on the RRF, replacing Jason Neubauer.

5. Whitewater Park – Johnson (MnDNR) & Tapp (COE).

A) Currently waiting to hear back from the MnDNR on options they want the Corps to comment on. A meeting between MnDNR and Corps was held last week. Four issues of concern were identified as follows:

1. Waterway fill – MnDNR rules prohibit placing fill in public waters to create uplands.
2. Extra O&M costs – The State will not pay extra costs associated with transportation of dredged material, which would be required if material is transported to the USAF or Southport placement sites.
3. Road access to the Whitewater Park site and parking still needs to be adequately addressed.
4. Lack of fish habitat enhancement in planning.

B) There are currently 12 alternatives and the MnDNR Commissioner has not settled on one. What will come out next is a preferred alternative followed by preparation of an Environmental Assessment by the Corps.

6. Water Level Mgmt Task Force – Benjamin (WDNR) & Krumholz (COE) (67-2&3)

A) Task Force meeting was held on 8/12. See attached minutes.

B) Minor Drawdowns.

1. Pool 6 postponed due to recreation access concerns at Prairie Island and Plamor. Need to better define “access.” Need to address recreational access dredging funding.

2. Pool 9 postponed due to cultural resource issues and the ISHPO. Need to work out differences with SHPO’s. Also need to discuss off-load procedures with Alliant Energy. Bill Howe suggested looking into equipment that can get through the shale and bedrock shelf in Alliant’s loading area.

C) Pool 5 Drawdown.

- Public meetings held on May 21 & 22; 30 people at each. A citizens advisory meeting was held on Aug 24; meeting went well, doing follow-up.

- Dan Krumholz defined Normal, Advanced Maintenance, and Supplemental dredging & the funding for each (see handout 67-3). MVP’s opinion is that a drawdown will require additional advanced maintenance dredging; needs to be approved by MVD. MVP needs to show future benefit/reduction in future dredging with advanced maintenance.

- \$1 Million in COE Master Program in 2005 for Advanced Maintenance; if we maintain historic funding levels.

- EMP is not a prohibited source of funding for channel dredging.

- COE to study quantities and pursue EMP funding.

- Define maximum extent practical (drawdown of + - 2.0’) by next RRF

- Tim Yager to continue work with NGO’s.

- COE to pursue completion of drawdown DPR
  - timeline/schedule of decision points
  - alternatives/unknowns defined as much as possible
    - supplemental funding for Nav Channel, Rec access
  - agencies to support as needed
  - complete by spring 2004
- Don Powel to develop EMP fact sheet for drawdown funding
  - potential impacts to other EMP projects; time/schedules
- Need parallel effort to pursue other sources of funding
  - Gretchen to investigate section 204/206 funding
- RRF agrees with motion by WLMTF to pursue Pool 5 Drawdown as described

below:

*The Water Level Management Task Force believes there is public support to move forward on a Pool 5 drawdown in 2005 to the maximum extent practical based on studies investigating a 1 to 4 foot drawdown. The Citizen Advisory Committee will work with the Pool 5 subgroup to develop a recreation access plan.*

D) WLMTF will only meet as necessary; subgroups to continue work on Pool 5 and Minor Drawdowns.

7. Project & Activities Coordination – All.

Listed here are a few examples of project/activities that may have gone smoother with more coordination:

- Pool 1 Placement site (Whitewater Park)
- Pool 9 Minor Drawdown (cultural resources)
- Mississippi Gardens Placement Site (FWS mitigation site)
- McMillan Island Excavation/Buck Creek (cultural resources)

Need to coordinate up front as much as possible to avoid problems.

COE to set-up coordination meeting with state historic preservation offices (SHPOs) prior to December RRF. Include Native American representatives as well. Need to build a relationship/appreciation for each other's mission.

8. Embankments Maintenance Study – DeZellar (COE)

May 2003 sites visit (LD 2 – 10)

Developing PAR; alternatives include riprap erosion protection, islands, vegetation, increase spillway lengths, lower embankments, increase lateral connectivity. Still need to protect embankment but provide environmental benefits as well. Fish passage recommendations from the Nav Study.

- draft by 30 Sep.
- If PAR recommends we move forward next step is DPR.
- DPR will prioritize embankments. Site by site problems and solutions.

COE needs help prioritizing efforts (embankments vs. drawdowns vs. excavations). RRF will help set priorities.

9. Restructured Nav. Study, Feasibility Study – DeZellar (COE) (67-4).  
6 Navigation Efficiency Alternatives
- 1-3 non-structural
  - 5&6 structural but do not apply to MVP.
    1. No action
    2. Lockage Fee
    3. Traffic scheduling
    4. Mooring buoys and switch boats
    5. Lock extensions
    6. New locks
- Public meetings in MVP: 28 Oct Bloomington, 29 Oct La Crosse.
10. Fish & Wildlife Work Group – Yager (FWS) (67-5,6,7, & 8).  
A) Letter presented to Randy Urich for his efforts as the FWWG chair.  
B) Pool Plans.
  - Endorsement Statement. *Endorsed by consensus with Don Powell's changes.*
  - Print Pool Plans by Dec 2003. All agencies agree to pay except IDNR; FWS to help with IDNR portion. Print 1000 copies.
  - Responses to plans; print as is.  
C) Turtles; develop long-term info needs. Eric Nelson (FWS) science support proposal.
11. Recreation Work Group – Berg (COE).  
A) Performed Rec. Boating Study aerial photography with digital camera.
  - 5 flights in pools 4 – 9
  - Worked well  
B) Beach Plans
  - Working draft being developed for pool 8
  - WDNR to perform enhancements on FWS lands in lower pool 4 this fall
  - Diamond Bluff (pool 3) would like to develop a park prior to GE 04
    - o City working with UW-Riverfalls on design
12. Environmental Management Program – Powell (COE) (67-9, 10, & 11)  
A) Spring Lake HREP to be endorsed at Dec RRF.
  - Award contract in FY04
  - Construct in FY05  
B) Workshops held on MV Miss went well  
C) Open Houses on MV Miss well attended
  - ~2000 people at three cities (La Crosse, Winona, St. Paul).
13. Next Meeting  
December 2 & 3: Radisson Riverfront Hotel on Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, MN.
  - Tour National Park Service facilities at the Science Museum
  - Tour Miss. Gallery at Science Museum (optional, admission fee)

Daniel J Krumholz  
Co-Chairman, RRF